

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 9, 2005.

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

The subject application is under Final rejection. The applicant has made amendments to the claims as detailed below that, it is respectfully submitted, places the subject application in condition for allowance based on suggestions by the Examiner.

Claims 15-17 and 22-37 are pending. Claims 15-17 and 34-37 are allowed, leaving claims 22-33 that are present in two claim sets: Claims 22-28 and claims 29-33.

In the above Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten as an independent claim and including all intervening dependent claims. In this regard, applicant has amended independent claim 22 to include the limitations of claims 23 and 24. Claims 23 and 24 have been canceled as redundant. The language of claim 23 added to claim 22 stating "said first and second outer surfaces are cylindrical" has been added to claim 22 as amended as "said first outer surface is cylindrical" because claim 22 already recites that the narrowed second portion of the shank that includes the second outer surface has "one of a circular and an elliptical substantially uniform cross-sectional configuration."

In the above Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 29 and claims 30-33 depending therefrom would be allowable if claim 29 was amended by changing "said shank having a first portion" to -- said first portion --. Applicant has made this amendment and has added language stating that, as in the claims that have been allowed, the second portion of the shank has an outer surface that is either cylindrical or elliptical.

As no new matter has been added and applicant has complied with the suggestions in the above Office Action to obtain allowability of all of the pending claims, applicant respectfully requests that the subject application pass to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

**KOYO STEERING SYSTEMS
OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**

Dated: 8/17/05

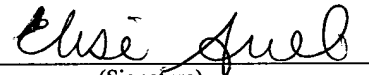
By: 

John M. Johnson
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 33,334
Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP
2 Wall Street
New York, NY 10005
Telephone No.: (212) 238-8650
Facsimile No.: (212) 732-3232

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